

Dear Calvary Chapel participant:

You have been asked to sign a “Release from Liability and Indemnity Agreement” (“Release”) in connection with your participation in this Calvary Chapel activity. This is an important document, and so we would like to take this opportunity to explain the purpose of the Release and some of the thinking behind it.

As you can see from the document itself, its legal purpose is straightforward. In signing the Release you will be doing four things: (1) authorizing your participation in a Calvary Chapel activity; (2) releasing Calvary Chapel from liability for injury; (3) assuming any risk of injury to yourself; and (4) agreeing to resolve any dispute through Christian conciliation or mediation. However, while these purposes may be straightforward, the thinking behind the Release requires some further explanation.

It should come as no surprise that the Release is, in large part, a response to the litigation explosion in our society today. In the past, litigation—especially between Christians—was rare. This is no longer the case, and churches such as Calvary Chapel can no longer assume that we will be spared the expense and burden of personal injury lawsuits. In addition, the cost of litigation is extremely high: defending even a single lawsuit—even if Calvary Chapel were ultimately proven innocent—could cost thousands of dollars. With this in mind, we have prepared a standard Release agreement, recognizing three basic principles.

First, Calvary Chapel is committed to accepting responsibility for our actions. This Release in **not** an attempt to evade honest responsibility and does not prevent Calvary Chapel from doing all that we can to meet these responsibilities. If someone is injured because of the negligence or wrongdoing of Calvary Chapel or our staff, the church is committed to doing everything within its means to put things right.

Second, Calvary Chapel takes the biblical admonition in 1 Corinthians 6 very seriously. There, the Bible urges Christians not to sue each other in civil court. Instead, Christian brothers and sisters are called to resolve their differences honestly within the body of Christ. To facilitate this, the Release requires that participants resolve any disputes through a Christian conciliation or mediation service.

Third, the Release recognizes the simple fact that everything we do in life carries with it some level of risk. Calvary Chapel and our staff will not knowingly place you in any danger. However, accidents do happen—accidents which are truly unforeseen, and for which no one is to blame. In signing the Release, you are merely acknowledging this fact.

We hope that this letter addresses any questions you may have about the Release you have been asked to sign. If you should still have questions or concerns after reading this, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would be happy to discuss this with you further.

Sincerely,

The Elders of Calvary Chapel

P.S. On the opposite side of the Release is an authorization for emergency medical care and treatment. Please be sure to fill it out as well.